

# ART COMPETITION GUIDELINES

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## Submission Checklist:

- ☐ Submissions can be mailed or dropped off the District Office by the deadline
- ☐ Fully completed Art Contest Release form for the current art contest
- ☐ Art teacher's signature on the release
- ☐ Parent/Guardian's signature on the release
- ☐ Student's signature on the release
- ☐ Copy of the completed release firmly attached to the back of the work
- ☐ Original of the release should be handed in separately

## General Guidelines

- The competition is open to high school students only. Exceptions will be made for schools that have 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades in one building. Each Member office can choose whether or not to include 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in the art show if there are schools in their district that fit these criteria.
- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for **the entire year** of the exhibition and cannot be returned to students earlier. Students, therefore, should submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.
- In order to allow an artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are necessary:
  - Piece must be two-dimensional
  - Each piece can be **no larger** than 30 inches by 30 inches to the outside dimensions of the frame (change from previous years)
  - No more than 4 inches in depth
- Artwork categories are as follows:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers
  - Collage: must be two dimensional
  - Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, etc.
  - Computer generated art
  - Photography
- A copy of the Student Release Form, signed by both the teacher and the students, must be attached to the artwork to certify the originality of the piece.
- Each entry must be an original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S copyright laws.

Note: Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo, painting, graphic, advertisement or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted.

- The final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the exhibition in the Capitol will be made by panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol.

### **Framing Guidelines**

- **Students are not required to frame their artwork at time of submission. If you are selected as the winning piece, you will be given sufficient time to frame your work.**
- Except for oil paintings, winning entry must be protected by a Plexiglas or glass frame.
- All works, **when framed**, should be **no larger** than 30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep including the outside dimensions of the frame. Due to wide participation of Member offices, framed work larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.
- Frames should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended.
- No “snap on” frames with glass are to be used.
- Plexiglas is better to use than glass over the artwork in order to avoid breakage. If glass is used, cover the entire surface completely with masking tape prior to shipping.
- Use sturdy picture hangers. Two hooks should be attached at the right and the left sides of the back of the work in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly.
- Since frames will be suspended by wire from overhead molding, please do not put wire between the hooks.
- **Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc.** to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the back side which side is up with arrows.
- A copy of the Student Release Form **must be** attached to the back of the artwork.

### **Suitability Guidelines**

- As outlined in these guidelines, the final decision regarding suitability for exhibition in the Capitol is left to a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in the Capitol.
- Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portions not in consonance with the Commission’s policy will be omitted from the exhibit.